



Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics (STEM) Division
3322 College Drive, Vineland, NJ 08360
856-691-8600

AG 209 Introduction to Soil Science

Syllabus

Lecture Hours/Credits: 4/4

Catalog Description

Prerequisites: RD 100, EN 060

Acquaints the student with soil concepts, plant nutrients, and their influence on plant growth. Emphasis will be placed on soil testing, nutrient deficiency symptoms, and fertilizer requirements.

Textbook and Course Materials

It is the responsibility of the student to confirm with the bookstore and/or their instructor the textbook, handbook, and any other materials required for their specific course and section.

Click here to see current textbook prices at ccnj.bncollege.com.

Evaluation Assessment

Online Proctoring

All courses offered at RCSJ, whether they are web-enhanced, hybrid, or fully online, may include assessments that make use of Online Proctoring. To find out more about Online Proctoring, and to learn about the minimum technical requirements, visit rcsj.edu/elearning/online-proctoring.

Grading Distribution

Grading to be determined by individual instructors.

Individual instructors may include the following assessment(s):

- Class participation/Attendance
- Quizzes and lecture exams
- Final Exam
- Lab reports (incl. field trips)
- Project

Grading

The grading scale for each course and section will be determined by the instructor and distributed the first day of class.

Rowan College of South Jersey Core Competencies

(Based on the NJCCC General Education Foundation - August 15, 2007; Revised 2011; Adopted 2014)

This comprehensive list reflects the core competencies that are essential for all RCSJ graduates; however, each program varies regarding competencies required for a specific degree. Critical thinking is embedded in all courses, while teamwork and personal skills are embedded in many courses.

1. **Written and Oral Communication:** Students will communicate effectively in both speech and writing.
2. **Quantitative Knowledge and Skills:** Students will use appropriate mathematical and statistical concepts and operations to interpret data and to solve problems
3. **Scientific Knowledge and Reasoning:** Students will use the scientific method of inquiry, through the acquisition of scientific knowledge.
4. **Technological Competency:** Students will use computer systems or other appropriate forms of technology to achieve educational and personal goals
5. **Society and Human Behavior:** Students will use social science theories and concepts to analyze human behavior and social and political institutions and to act as responsible citizens.
6. **Humanistic Perspective:** Students will analyze works in the fields of art, history, music, or theater; literature; philosophy and/or religious studies; and/or will gain competence in the use of a foreign language
7. **Historical Perspective:** Students will understand historical events and movements in World, Western, non-Western or American societies and assess their subsequent significance.
8. **Global and Cultural Awareness:** Students will understand the importance of a global perspective and culturally diverse peoples.
9. **Ethical Reasoning and Action:** Students will understand ethical issues and situations.
10. **Information Literacy:** Students will address an information need by locating, evaluating, and effectively using information.

AG 209 Core Competencies

This course focuses on three of RCSJ's Core Competencies:

- [Add Core Competencies here](#)

Student Learning Outcomes: AG 209 Introduction to Soil Science

Successful completion of AG 209 will help students:	RCSJ Core Competencies	Evaluation / Assessment (Additional means of evaluation may be included by individual instructors)
Name and differentiate between the three soil separates.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class participation/Attendance • Quizzes and lecture exams • Final Exam • Lab reports (incl. field trips) • Project
Describe an ideal soil.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class participation/Attendance • Quizzes and lecture exams • Final Exam • Lab reports (incl. field trips) • Project
Determine soil texture by both feel and analytical methods.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class participation/Attendance • Quizzes and lecture exams • Final Exam • Lab reports (incl. field trips) • Project
Perform soil nutrient and pH tests and derive recommendations to correct imbalances		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class participation/Attendance • Quizzes and lecture exams • Final Exam • Lab reports (incl. field trips) • Project
Calculate rates of fertilizer and lime applications.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class participation/Attendance • Quizzes and lecture exams • Final Exam • Lab reports (incl. field trips) • Project
Differentiate between primary, secondary, and trace elements.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class participation/Attendance • Quizzes and lecture exams • Final Exam • Lab reports (incl. field trips) • Project

Successful completion of AG 209 will help students:	RCSJ Core Competencies	Evaluation / Assessment (Additional means of evaluation may be included by individual instructors)
Differentiate between bulk density and particle density.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class participation/Attendance • Quizzes and lecture exams • Final Exam • Lab reports (incl. field trips) • Project

Topical Outline

- Course orientation
 - A word about PAS
 - Lecture: Introduction to Soils – Function, medium, regulator, recycler, habitat
- Introduction to Soils – Profile, Topsoil & subsoil, interface
 - Lab: Soil Horizons
- Lecture: Parent Materials – Weathering, material transport
 - Lab: Soil Origin and Development
- Lecture: Physical Properties – Color, texture, textural classes
 - Lab: Soil texture and Structure
- Lecture: Physical Properties – Density, pore space, structure
 - Lab: Soil Density and Pore Space
- Lecture: Soil Water – Properties, capillarity, moisture, flow
 - Lab: Soil Moisture
- Lecture: Soil Water – Infiltration, percolation, evaporation, drainage
 - Lab: Infiltration
- Lecture: Soil Reaction – pH, acidity, alkalinity, liming
 - Lab: pH Testing
 - Mid-term Exam
- Lecture: Organic Matter – Carbon cycle, decomposition, humus, compost
 - Lab: Composting
- Lecture: Essential Plant Nutrients – Nitrogen, sulfur, legumes
 - Lab: Soil Sampling
- Lecture: Essential Plant Nutrients – Phosphorus, potassium, cations, Anions
 - Lab: Testing for Macronutrients
- Lecture: Nutrient Management – Goals, organic fertilizers, inorganic fertilizers
 - Lab: Testing for Micronutrients
- Lecture: Nutrient Management – Fertilizer/lime, plant analysis
 - Lab: Fertilizer Recommendations
- Lecture: Soil Organisms – Diversity, roots, beneficial organisms, detrimental organisms
 - Lab: Personal Soil Testing
- Final exam

Affirmative Action Statement

The Board of Trustees is committed to providing a work and academic environment that maintains and promotes affirmative action and equal opportunity for all employees and students without discrimination on the basis of certain enumerated and protected categories. These categories are race, creed (religion), color, national origin, nationality, ancestry, age, sex (including pregnancy and sexual harassment), marital status, domestic partnership or civil union status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, atypical hereditary cellular or blood trait, genetic information, liability for military service, or mental or physical disability, including AIDS and HIV related illnesses.

For questions concerning discrimination, contact Almarie J. Jones, Special Assistant to the President, Diversity and Equity/Title IX and Compliance, 856-415-2154 or ajones@rcsj.edu or (Cumberland) Nathaniel Alridge, Jr., JD, Director, Diversity and Equity/Title IX and Judicial Affairs, 856-691-8600, ext. 1414 or nalridge@rcsj.edu. For disability issues or any barriers in the learning or physical environment related to a document condition/disability please contact: Gloucester campus – Carol Weinhardt, Director, Department of Special Services, ADA/504 Officer at 856-415-2247 or cweinhar@rcsj.edu; or Cumberland Campus – Meredith Vicente, Senior Director, Department of Special Services/Project Assist at 856-200-4688 or mvicent1@rcsj.edu

Department of Special Services

The Department of Special Services is committed to providing support services and ensuring equal access to eligible students with documented conditions/disabilities as outlined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act with Amendments Act (ADAAA).

(Gloucester Campus Location and Contact)

Location: Instructional Center, room 425A.

Primary Contact: Director, Carol Weinhardt, (email) cweinhar@rcsj.edu; or (phone) 856-415-2247.

(Cumberland Campus Location and Contact)

Location: Center for Academic & Student Success (CASS)

Primary Contact: Senior Director, Meredith Vicente, (email) mvicent1@rcsj.edu; or (phone) 856-200-4688.

Reporting Allegations of Sexual Assault Resource Referrals (8/2021) Cumberland Campus

There are multiple safe places for students to report allegations of sexual assault, both on and off campus. Reports of sexual assault can be made to any of the following offices listed in the chart below.

All students are encouraged to report alleged crimes on campus.

Employees must report crimes that pose an immediate threat to the campus Security Office, the local Police Department or the Sheriff's Office.

Service	Resource	Phone Number/Location/Website
Non-Confidential Reporting Law Enforcement	Vineland Police Dept. Millville Police Department Cumberland Co. Sheriff's Office Cumberland County Emergency Services Cumberland Campus Security 856-200-4706 (Direct)	856-691-4111 856-825-7010 856-451-4449 9-1-1 Andres Lopez, Director Safety and Security 856-200-4706
Non-Confidential On-Campus Reporting Support Services	Almarie J. Jones Special Assistant to the President Diversity and Equity, Title IX and Compliance Nathaniel Alridge, Jr., JD, Director Diversity and Equity, Title IX and Judicial Affairs Kellie W. Slade Executive Director Student Services, Student Life	856-415-2154 Gloucester Campus College Center, Room116 ajones@rcsj.edu 856-498-9948 Catherine J. Arpino Education and Humanities Center, nalridge@rcsj.edu 856-200-4615 Student & Enrollment Services Center kslade@rcsj.edu
Confidential On-Campus Counseling and Support Services	Student Counseling and Wellness Center John Wojtowicz, LCSW	Academic Building – 1 st floor 856-200-4760 jwojtowi@rcsj.edu
Confidential Off-Campus Full-Service Support	Center for Family Services – Services Empowering Rights of Victims (SERV)	24/7 Hotlines Cumberland Co. – 1-800-225-0196 www.centerffs.org/serv
Hospital Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner on Site	Inspira Medical Center Vineland	1505 W. Sherman Ave., Vineland, NJ 856-641-8000